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**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. – 17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus, for detecting an actual frame synchronous pattern which is a part of a frame synchronous pattern and is essential to execute frame synchronizing, comprising:

- (a) a provisional-region detection section; and
- (b) a frame synchronous pattern detecting section,

said provisional-region detection section being for:

\_\_\_\_\_ sampling, ~~from~~ parallel data according to a synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) transmission system,

\_\_\_\_\_ identifying and holding a ~~part-region~~ of the parallel data in which said actual frame synchronous pattern is presumably included, ~~said part of the parallel data being identified~~ as provisional region data, and for

\_\_\_\_\_ serializing and outputting the provisional region data to said frame synchronous pattern detecting section,

said frame synchronous pattern detecting section, communicatively connected with said provisional-region detection section, being for detecting said actual frame synchronous pattern from the inputted provisional region data.

19. (currently amended) A frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus for detecting an actual frame synchronous pattern which is a part of a frame synchronous pattern and is essential to execute frame synchronizing, comprising:

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(a) a provisional-region detection section; and

(b) a frame synchronous pattern detecting section,

said provisional-region detection section being for:

\_\_\_\_\_ sampling, ~~from~~ given data,

\_\_\_\_\_ identifying and holding a ~~part region~~ of parallel data in which said actual frame synchronous pattern is presumably included, ~~said part of the parallel data being identified as~~ provisional region data, and ~~for~~

\_\_\_\_\_ serializing and outputting the provisional region data to said frame synchronous pattern detecting section,

said frame synchronous pattern detecting section, communicatively connected with said provisional-region detection section, being for detecting said actual frame synchronous pattern from the inputted provisional region data.

20. (currently amended) A frame synchronous pattern detection method, for detecting an actual frame synchronous pattern which is a part of a frame synchronous pattern and is essential to execute frame synchronizing, said method comprising the steps of:

sampling, ~~from~~ given parallel data;

\_\_\_\_\_ identifying and holding a ~~part region of the parallel data~~ in which said actual frame synchronous pattern is presumably included, ~~said part from the given parallel data being identified as~~ provisional region data; and

detecting said actual frame synchronous pattern from said ~~sampled~~ provisional region data converted into serial form.

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21. (currently amended) A frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus comprising:

(a) a provisional-region detection section for sampling, ~~from~~ parallel data according to a synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) transmission system, and identifying and holding a part region of the parallel data in which an object frame synchronous pattern is presumably included, ~~said part of the parallel data being identified~~ as provisional region data; and

(b) a frame synchronous pattern detecting section for detecting, from said provisional region data, the object frame synchronous pattern,

said provisional region data being serialized and output from said provisional-region detection section to said frame synchronous pattern detecting section.

22. (currently amended) A frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus comprising:

(a) a provisional-region detection section for sampling, ~~from~~ given data, and identifying and holding a part region of parallel data in which an object frame synchronous pattern is presumably included, ~~said part of the parallel data being identified~~ as provisional region data; and

(b) a frame synchronous pattern detecting section for detecting, from said provisional region data, the object frame synchronous pattern,

said provisional region data being serialized and output from said provisional-region detection section to said frame synchronous pattern detecting section.

23. (currently amended) A frame synchronous pattern detection method comprising the steps of:

sampling, ~~from~~ given parallel data;

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identifying and holding a part-region of the parallel data in which an object frame  
synchronous pattern is presumably included, ~~said part from the given parallel data being~~  
identified as provisional region data; and  
detecting the object frame synchronous pattern using said ~~sampled~~ provisional region  
data converted into serial form.

24. (new) The frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus according to claim 18,  
wherein the region spans a plurality of bytes.

25. (new) The frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus according to claim 18,  
wherein the region borders two types of data.

26. (new) The frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus according to claim 19,  
wherein the region spans a plurality of bytes.

27. (new) The frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus according to claim 19,  
wherein the region borders two types of data.

28. (new) The frame synchronous pattern detection method according to claim 20,  
wherein the region spans a plurality of bytes.

29. (new) The frame synchronous pattern detection method according to claim 20,  
wherein the region borders two types of data.

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30. (new) The frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus according to claim 21,  
wherein the region spans a plurality of bytes.

31. (new) The frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus according to claim 21,  
wherein the region borders two types of data.

32. (new) The frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus according to claim 22,  
wherein the region spans a plurality of bytes.

33. (new) The frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus according to claim 22,  
wherein the region borders two types of data.

34. (new) The frame synchronous pattern detection method according to claim 23,  
wherein the region spans a plurality of bytes.

35. (new) The frame synchronous pattern detection method according to claim 23,  
wherein the region borders two types of data.